



MARCH

Union Times

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Greetings in the Name of the Risen Savior!

In the month of March, we embark upon a very holy and sacred season. We begin the season of Lent: a time of 40 days of prayer, fasting, and spiritual renewal. We observe these 40 days of lent as a reminder that Jesus spent 40 days in the wilderness being tempted by Satan, and endured through it all.

This is a time of self-examination: searching for the things that we want to remove from ourselves to draw us closer to God, and also the things that we wish to add to draw us nearer to God.

Lent is a very special time that should not be glossed over. I think there are many people who want to go straight to Easter, but don't realize that in order for resurrection to happen, death had to happen first. We have to go through all of the seasons of life — we will not appreciate the beauty and warmth of spring without the bitter cold of winter.

There are many ways to observe this Holy Season of Lent here at Union. Please partake in these upcoming activities in the month of



March:

Ash Wednesday Worship (3/1)-7pm

Pastor Led Bible Study: "Restored: Finding Redemption in our Mess"
March 7th, 14th, 22nd, and 27th with 2 more dates in April: 4th and 11th—
10am and 7pm sessions.

District Revival Prayer Day (3/11)
9am - 3pm

It is my prayer that you have a holy, reverent, and spiritually uplifting season of lent.

Blessings,
Rev. Jim Penuel III

March Preaching Schedule

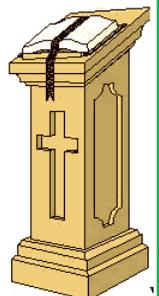
3/1—Ash Wednesday—True Repentance—Joel 2:1-2, 12-17

3/5—Temptation's Ugly Head—Matt. 4:1-11

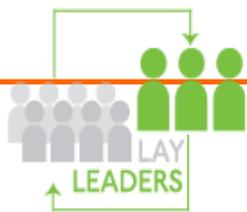
3/12—Amazing Grace—John 3:1-17

3/19—The Nature of Suffering—Rom. 5:1-11

3/26—Healing Hands—John 9:1-41



Lay Leader's Message *(Notes from Nancy)*



During the season of Lent, we are on a symbolic journey for 40 days. What do those 40 days mean to you? (God loves that number; that is for sure! Noah floated on the wild seas for 40 days; Moses fasted for 40 days and 40 nights while waiting for the 10 commandments; the Israelites wandered in the desert for 40 years waiting for the Promise Land; Jesus was tempted by Satan while in the desert for 40 days.) During this Lenten Season of 40 days, I am going to commit to make every attempt to follow Jesus's response to Satan, for if I am faithful, I will be responding with my eyes and heart on God and mouth will speak God's word. I am human so I will surely face this trial with great anxiety, but my Lord says to **FEAR NOT** and to **NOT BE ANXIOUS ABOUT ANYTHING**. So how shall I do this? First let me focus on how Jesus did this:

*The devil came to tempt Jesus in the wilderness. He offered Jesus power to turn the stone into bread and fill his hunger. **Jesus chose to love and trust God over greed and self.***

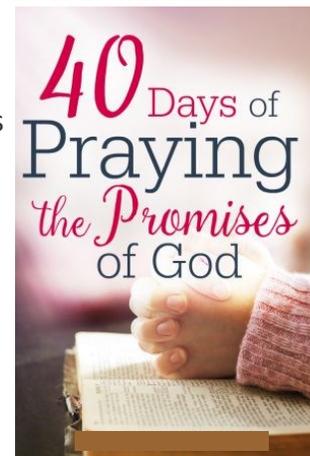
*Satan offered Jesus power and dominion over all the earth and **Jesus chose humility, offering himself to die on a cross in our place for sin.***

*Satan offered him the power of self, to be greater than God, and **Jesus chose to be a servant instead of a king.***

Go to the Bible and read Luke 4: 1-15. Every answer that Jesus gave was the word of God. The world tempts us with all of its charms and lies. **Our response to the world must be God's word.** There is no higher calling than when we speak and stand on God's word. And the world takes notice! Look what happened to Jesus after 40 days in the wilderness!!!!!! ***“And Jesus returned in the power of the Holy Spirit into Galilee and a report concerning him went out through all the surrounding country. And he taught in their synagogues, being gloried by all.”***

For Lent, I want to keep my eyes on God. I want to be filled with the Holy Spirit! I will separate myself from the daily bombardment of news, seeking only the good news from God's word. I will make an intentional decision to meet with God throughout each day to discuss my joys and concerns. I will with God's help not yield to the temptation to turn to my pleasures and easy life when God directs me to march for-

ward to be His witness in hard places. And at the end of 40 days I will cry to my Lord how thankful I am that HE still loves me despite any short comings with the temptations! I am going to be stronger! I am going to be filled with the Holy Spirit! And I invite you to journey with me! Let's keep our eyes on Jesus this Lenten Season, not Satan! Let's follow Jesus through Galilee and into Jerusalem. And let us give thanks at the end of the journey for not only is the cross empty! So is the tomb! Our God lives now and forever through the breath of the Holy Spirit. I pray you feel His spirit in your heart. Stand on the WORD of God and you will not fall into the WORLD of SATAN!



Nancy Libertini, Lay Leader



A Ministry of DelMarVa Teen Challenge

The Home of Hope is the Mission focus of Union Church and is located at :

10936 Leadership Way (off of Rifle Range Rd.)

Bridgeville, DE 19933



PECOMETH DAY

Saturday, April 29, 2017
11am to 3pm

Bring your family and friends, and come enjoy Pecometh Day! It's a perfect chance to see Pecometh for the first time and hear about our Summer Camp program, or come back to camp to revisit familiar sites and see familiar faces.

Bring the whole family and enjoy Pecometh! Activities include Open House Tours, Games, Music, Hayrides, Food, and Exhibits. Activities are free! Campers and parents are welcome to tour the camp property, meet some of our staff, and learn more about the Camp Pecometh program!

Entertainers and exhibitors include balloon artist Jungle John, The Church Hill Volunteer Fire Company, Birds of Prey from the Chesapeake Bay Environmental Center, and music!

Our Second Annual Pecometh Fishing Derby has been moved to Pecometh Day (registration and fee required).

Go to: www.pecometh.org for additional information.



March 1, 2017
7:00 PM

"Hamburger Helper" Month



Hamburger Helper (ANY variety) is the non-perishable food item being collected during the month of March. Donations can be dropped off at the church office or placed in the pantry cupboard located in the Narthex.

Thank You!

SAVE THE DATE!

UNITED
METHODIST
WOMEN
3rd Annual
DAY OF GIVING



Each Day of Giving gift will be matched dollar for dollar!



2017



On Sunday, February 19, an invitation for prayer, discussion, and an opportunity to journey through the 40 Day Prayer Challenge for Lent was offered at both services.

Please join Nancy Libertini at 10 am in the chapel on Friday mornings, starting March 3rd. If you need a book, please contact the office asap in order that the book can be in your hands quickly!

Nancy looks forward to being on this journey with you! If you would like to meet for prayer at another time, please let Nancy know. You can reach her via email at: tidewaterhome@comcast.net or by phone at 302-956-0556. Leave a message if there is no answer and she will return your call.

WWW.UNIONINBRIDGEVILLE.COM

Visit Union Church's website to get:

- ⇒ Sunday Bulletins
- ⇒ The latest Sermon and Sermon archives
- ⇒ Union Times Newsletters
- ⇒ Calendar of Events
- ⇒ Event cancellations due to inclement weather
- ⇒ News and information about activities and ministry opportunities
- ⇒ (Coming soon—online giving).



Notes from Sunday School!



The month of March and we turn our attention to Lent. We have purchased age appropriate Lenten materials for your use. These booklets will provide devotions, activities and stories for this period of our church calendar. Children received Lenten Devotions in Sunday School Class. If you haven't received these materials yet, please check in the narthex for the devotional that best meets your family's need.

We often prepare for Easter by giving up something we would miss, like ice cream or candy. This act serves as a small sacrifice that would remind us of God's ultimate sacrifice, His Son, Jesus, and how God's grace frees us from death and our sin.

Giving up something for Lent is a way to remember. Luke 2:49 *"Jesus said to his parents," [Know Mom and Dad] I must be about my Father's business?"* Jesus was just about 12 years old at the time. We are God's family and thinking on this scripture, maybe as well as giving up something, it would be good to concentrate on doing our Father's business more intentionally.

What to do? Maybe each day find a kindness to share with God's family. Maybe in sorting out the old toys or the out-grown clothes you find something in good shape to give to someone else. Do this in the name of our Father's business. Caring for God's earth and each other with gifts of our time and talents is doing God's business. Union has many opportunities. Consider doing something extra for God during Lent.



sundayschool

This is also the opportunity to give extra time to prayer and scripture study. These Lenten materials can help create a family devotional time in preparation for Easter.

See you in Sunday School,

*By Cheryl Malone
Sunday School Coordinator*

Dear Friends,

You are encouraged to come treat yourself to a day of renewal and inspiration at the Dover District Revival Prayer Day being held right here at our own church!

*please
join us*

I have just returned home from three days at a Silent Prayer Retreat. God is so wonderful in the way that He meets each of us just where we are when we take the time to be still before Him. When we allow ourselves to move closer to God, we discover something so wonderful. We did not need to move at all. God resides in our heart.

I recently read an article that says if you are missing God, you have moved out of your home.... Your heart... you have given your life residence over to the world. Reclaim yourself as God's child. Move back home to a place of love, your heart, and find God.

The District Revival Day is a good place to start. More information and the registration form is on the next page of this newsletter. Fill it out, send it off, and I'll see you there. God can't answer our requests at Union unless we start asking.... So let's do this together!

Blessings,
Nancy Libertini, Lay Leader



The Church Mouse Consignment Boutique & Art Gallery

Open 10am-4pm Thursday – Saturday – A ministry of UUMC located at 210 Market St.



Bring us your items and we'll sell them for you. Come join our consigning team. We're looking for home décor items, furniture, quilts, glassware, ladies accessories, and much more. For additional information, please call (302-956-0591) or e-mail: church_mouse@comcast.net.



"In addition to our unique inventory, a new **Princess Corner** has recently been created with items available for young girls".



"Call to me and I will answer you and tell you great and unsearchable things you do not know" (Jeremiah 33:3, NIV)



"Sweet Day of Prayer"

Saturday, March 11th 2017

9:00 am to 3:00 pm

Lunch provided

Union United Methodist

2 N. Laws St., Bridgeville, DE 19933

The theme of our third Revival Prayer Day is *"Sweet Day of Prayer"*. This daylong prayer session will focus on praise, worship, and the teaching on "the power of corporate prayer." You will have opportunities to experience different types of individual and corporate prayer, and will hear powerful testimonies about the work of the Holy Spirit in our churches during their 40-Day Prayer Challenge. You will experience the power of prayer and spiritual breakthroughs during this event.

Come, and be blessed to see the Holy Spirit at work in our midst. **All clergy and laity are welcome to attend.** Please call the District Office with any questions at (302) 526-2629.

REGISTRATION FORM

REGISTRATION FEE: \$5

Please enclose check or money order, made payable to Peninsula-Delaware Conference and **return no later than Wednesday, March 1, 2017 to:**

Dover District Office, Attn: Cathy - Revival Prayer Day
30 Lookerman Plaza, Dover, DE 19901

(Please print)

Attendee's Name: _____

Church/Charge: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Please note any special dietary requirements: _____

For Office Use Only

Date Received: _____

Check/money order #: _____



Sunday,, March 12th
Home of Hope Sunday



Members Share Blessings!

It is a privilege to be able to teach a Sunday School class. Of course I was apprehensive to volunteer at first. Like many of you it sounds good but there is always a good reason why now is not the right time. The right time is now...

It is not a weekly commitment. It is usually once or twice a month. With Union you have no worries. The church provides everything needed to have a wonderful experience with the children. You have a complete program including several options that you choose what works best for you. You always have another believer there with you and they provide support and encouragement.

If you feel God's touch upon you, step forward now! You do not want to miss this blessing! For more information about teaching or helping with the Sunday School program, contact Cheryl Malone or talk to me! I love being a Sunday School teacher!.....

Joyce Wintersteen



Count Your
BLESSINGS



March 3, 4, & 5*, 2017
7:00 p.m. *2:00 p.m.

Woodbridge Middle School Auditorium

Adults: \$8 Students & Seniors: \$5; Children 3 & under: FREE
Tickets available at the door

Meredith Willson's *The Music Man JR.* is presented through special arrangement with
and all authorized materials are supplied by
Music Theatre International, New York, NY
(212) 541-4684 mtishows.com

Almost Home Women's Retreat

By Janet Wildes

The last weekend of January, the annual Women's Retreat was held in Rehobeth. Around 31 women packed their bags and left casseroles for their families so they could get away for two days and nights. Everyone would agree that it was a well-planned and inspirational time.



The theme was "Almost Home". Our speakers, leaders and activities led us to find what was home for us. The small group setting was warm and intimate.



Check out our bulletin board across from the Choir room for even more pictures and get excited for next year's retreat.



P.S.—Gil is still wondering where HIS casserole is!

A. Felix du Pont Memorial House

Laura Lee, Candi, and Tammy

Melissa's get acquainted games

Outlet malls on the way

Singing Circle of Friends and It Is Well

Table decorations by Jean Wilson



Hymns on the beach

Out-of-state friends, Jean Hinckley and Jessi Cole

Making creative skirts, songs, and posters

Eeyore, frog, pig, and duck slippers



Winning the slipper contest

Outstanding speakers

Meeting old and new friends

Early crack of dawn sunrise service

Nightly snacks and ice cream

Substitute bear for Polly Mervine



Real mattresses

Electric lamp from Alice Baker

Two delicious entrees each meal

Recreation into the wee hours

Eight or so decades represented

Amber came

The perfect gift in the gift exchange game.



God's Fire Youth Happenings!



God's Fire youth group has been busy this winter. We attended the annual Youth Rally in January with 17 youth and 6 chaperones. A wonderful time was had there with spiritual growth that is continuing to be witnessed in the lives of our youth. On February 11, we went as a group to the Newsboys concert in Salisbury, MD. Many of us agree that it was one of the best Christian concerts we have attended. Our regular youth group meetings for grades 7-12 continue on Sunday night, meeting from 6pm-8pm.

As we look to the future, we are gearing up for our annual Easter Egg making fundraiser. Forms are available in the narthex or on the church office door. The price remains \$5/egg and eggs will be available for pick up April 10 from 6pm-8pm or April 11-13 from 9am-3pm. *[Note: Eggs will be made from Thursday evening, April 6 through Sunday, April 9—any help is greatly appreciated.]*

Finally, plans have been announced for our annual mission trip. We will be partnering with the youth group from Mt. Olivet UMC in Seaford and traveling to Cherokee, NC. There we will be staying at the Cherokee United Methodist Church and doing home repair projects and Vacation Bible School. The trip will take place July 29-August 5, 2017. Any youth that have completed grade 7-grade 12 is eligible to attend and should see Mrs. Tammy Williamson if interested in going.

A big thank you to our church family for your continued support. Please continue to keep this ministry in your prayers as we continue to grow both in numbers, and spiritually.

--Tammy Williamson, God's Fire Youth Director



Union United Methodist Church

God's Fire Easter Egg Sale

Each egg comes decorated and packaged in a gift box with grass. \$5.00 per egg



Customer: _____

Customer's Address: _____

Phone: _____ Sold By: _____

<i>Flavor</i>	<i>Quantity</i>	<i>Price</i>	<i>Total</i>
Peanut Butter (purple grass)	_____	\$5.00	_____
Butter Cream (yellow grass)	_____	\$5.00	_____
Coconut (pink grass)	_____	\$5.00	_____
Total Eggs Ordered	_____	Total Paid	_____

****Payment in full MUST be received with this order form. No Exceptions**

**Cut-off Date March 26, 2017 **Return forms to any God's Fire Member or the church office

****Eggs ready for pick up by April 10, 2017 6pm-8pm or Tuesday-Thursday (April 11-13) 9am-3pm**

***Make checks payable to U.U.M.C. God's Fire Youth*

POLICY regarding photography at Union UMC



Photography of children and members of the church is prohibited except by family and/or their designee.

Photography is also discouraged during the actual worship service. To provide the opportunity for mementos, we will have groups assemble for a picture and/or individual pictures following the worship service.

Children's photographs can not be submitted for publications without a signed release and consent form by a parent or guardian of each and every child in the photograph.

Group photographs of children require the permission of their parent or guardian: this includes social media. [Safe Sanctuary Guidelines page 84 of the conference guidelines]

This information will be posted in the bulletin and the church narthex. These guidelines only apply to the private property of Union United Methodist worship services and events



CPR/AED Class coming soon to Union!

Become CPR certified and knowledge about the AED equipment here at Union. Contact the church office if you might be interested in participating in an upcoming class to learn these life-saving skills.

Community Resource Meeting



Threading together our work to make the most impact!

*This invitation is open to any social worker, case manager, school, medical facility, agency, civic group, Church (or faith organization), non-profit or business group in the greater **Bridgeville/Greenwood** area who work with vulnerable populations. Please send a representative to this very important collaboration and resource sharing meeting.*

Tuesday, March 21, 2017

Union United Methodist Church

2 North Laws Street – Bridgeville, DE 19933

10 AM until noon – in the Fellowship Hall



Each group will be allotted time to **briefly** share what they provide to the community. We will discuss how we can work together in the future and what advantages we can gain by doing so.

*Resources are reminded to **bring lots of printed materials to share** with the other participants in the resource gathering.*

This event is for organized resources actively engaging in the greater Bridgeville and Greenwood area.

You may share this invitation with resources you work with!

**limited space, please reserve promptly, RSVP: loveincofmiddelmarva@yahoo.com*

For more information phone: 302-629-7050

*Hosts of the Resource Sharing Event: **Bridgeville State Service Center,***

Union UMC and Love INC of Mid-Delmarva

Friends of the Bridgeville Library SAVE THE DATE



to all those that participated and helped with February's *"Warm Winter Soup for the Soul"* event.

Tuesday, March 14, 2017, 7:00 p.m.
Spirited Music of
Kindred Spirits Duo, Steve & Ali Quillen
Featuring Folk, Celtic & Bluegrass Music

Tuesday, May 9, 2017, 7:00 p.m.
Personalized & Integrative Medicine
by Dr. Uday Jani

PLEASE JOIN US
All Events are Free – All Are Welcome
Bridgeville Public Library Meeting Room
600 South Cannon Street



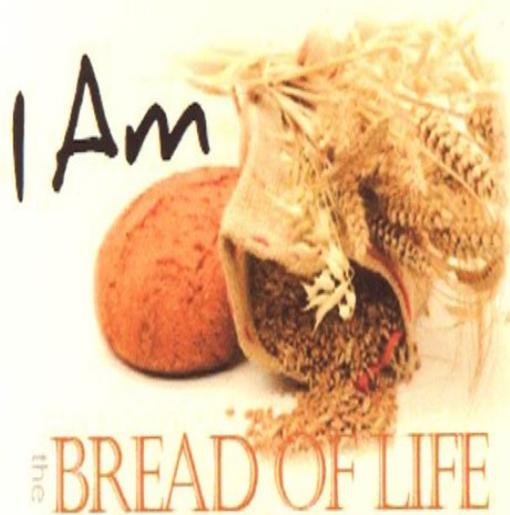
“Showers of Hope”

**Saturday evening
April 1st
6:00 PM**

Join us for an elegant three course dinner benefitting the Home of Hope—Union’s most recent missions endeavor.

To purchase tickets, contact Sonny Hardisty (337-7070) or call the church office (337-7409)
— cost is \$25.





Sister to Sister II Gathering

Saturday, April 29, 2017

9:30 - 10:15 a.m. Check-In

10:30 - 11:30 a.m. Worship

12:00 - 1:30 p.m. Catered Luncheon

St. John's United Methodist Church

300 N. Pine St.

Seaford, DE

Speaker - Susie Bond

Retreat leader for over 200 retreats for women, couples & professional groups
and Disciple Bible Study facilitator.

Theme - Jesus said: "*I am the Bread of Life*" *John 6:35*

Handicap accessible bathroom and elevator available

Registration Fee - \$15.00

Registration ends April 14 or until 250
maximum seating is reached

For more information call 302 629-9466

Family Game Night Snapshots





**AGING
FAITHFULLY**

Wednesday, March 8th
Noon to 1:30 PM



*Join us in the Fellowship Hall
for a light luncheon and time of
fellowship.*

Union United Methodist Church

2 N. Lows St.
Bridgeville, DE 19933
302-337-7409



“Building Bridges Together”

Using Our Head, Hands & Heart for Jesus

Email: uumchurch@comcast.net

Website: Unioninbridgeville.com

The Church Mouse

210 Market Street
Bridgeville, DE 19933
302-956-0591

Open: 10 am to 4 pm—Thursday thru Saturday

Featuring local artists and crafts; estate jewelry; many gift items; furniture—including lamps, bedroom sets, dining room sets, chairs, tables, shelves, small decorative items, pillows, sofas and more! Reasonable Prices marked to sell! Consign your items to us! Proceeds assist the mission outreach ministries of UUMC.

MARCH



MUSIC OPPORTUNITIES

The following music ministries at Union welcome new and returning participants — contact the church office for additional information.

- Joyful Singers
- Joyful Handbell Ringers
- Jubilee Handbell Ringers
- Praise Team
- Chancel Choir
- Instrumentalists
- Soloists
- Special Music

March Meetings



Monday, 3/13—SPRC, 7pm

Thursday, 3/16—UMW, 1pm

Tuesday, 3/21—Community

Resources, 10am

Lay Shepherds, 7pm

Tuesday, 3/28—Church

Council, 7pm

SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICES



9 am—Contemporary Worship
Children’s Sunday School
(Pre-K through 6th Grades)

10 am—Youth Sunday School
(7th—12th Grades)

Adult “Son-Seekers” Class

11 am—Traditional Worship



Don’t forget to set all of your clocks one hour ahead!

Sunday, March 12th



Monday to Friday:

9:00 am to 3:00 pm

Phone: 302-337-7409

Debbie Vogelsang
Office Manager